

# Environmental Health Activities in Wyoming



# NCEH in Partnership with Wyoming

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NCEH's work focuses on three program areas: identifying environmental hazards, measuring exposure to environmental chemicals, and preventing health effects that result from environmental hazards. NCEH has approximately 450 employees and a budget for 2004 of approximately \$189 million; its mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing or controlling diseases and deaths that result from interactions between people and their environment.

NCEH and partners in **Wyoming** collaborate on a variety of environmental health projects throughout the state. In **fiscal years 2000–2004**, NCEH awarded more than **\$1.9** million in direct funds and services to Wyoming for various projects. These projects include activities related to developing a biomonitoring plan and preventing childhood lead poisoning. In addition, Wyoming benefits from national-level prevention and response activities conducted by NCEH or NCEH-funded partners.

#### **Identifying Environmental Hazards**

NCEH identifies, investigates, and tracks environmental hazards and their effects on people's health. Examples of such activities include asthma surveillance and environmental public health tracking. NCEH has not recently conducted or supported any such activities in **Wyoming**.

## **Measuring Exposure to Environmental Chemicals**

NCEH measures environmental chemicals in people to determine how to protect people and improve their health. Following are examples of such activities that NCEH has conducted or supported in **Wyoming**.

#### **Funding**

■ Antiterrorism Funding to Increase State Chemical Laboratory Capacity—In fiscal year 2004, CDC provided more than \$176,000 to **Wyoming** to help expand chemical laboratory capacity to prepare for and respond to chemical-terrorism incidents and other

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chemical emergencies. This program will provide training and technical assistance to Wyoming on procedures for properly collecting and shipping human samples after a chemical-terrorism incident.

Biomonitoring Grants—In fiscal years 2001 and 2002, NCEH awarded planning grants to Rocky Mountain Biomonitoring Consortium, which includes New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming, to develop an implementation plan for a biomonitoring program for these states. In this way, the states in the consortium could make decisions about which environmental chemicals within their borders were of health concern and could make plans for measuring levels of those chemicals in their state populations. In fiscal year 2003, the consortium received a grant to implement the biomonitoring program.

#### **Services**

- Helping State Public Health Laboratories
  Respond to Chemical Terrorism—NCEH is
  working with Wyoming's public health laboratory
  to prepare state laboratory scientists for collecting
  and transporting human samples (e.g., blood or
  urine) after a chemical-terrorism incident.
- Newborn Screening Quality Assurance
  Program—NCEH provides proficiency-testing
  services and dried-blood-spot quality-control
  materials to monitor and help assure the quality
  of screening program operations for newborns
  in Wyoming. Wyoming screens newborns for
  seven diseases or conditions. The importance

of accurate screening tests for genetic metabolic diseases cannot be overestimated. Testing of blood spots collected from newborns is mandated by law in almost every state to promote early intervention that can prevent mental retardation, severe illness, and premature death.

## Preventing Health Effects That Result from Environmental Hazards

NCEH promotes safe environmental public health practices to minimize exposure to environmental hazards and prevent adverse health effects. Following is an example of such activities that NCEH has conducted or supported in **Wyoming**.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program—The Wyoming Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (WY CLPPP) received NCEH funding from 2001 to June 2003. In 2001, the program screened 1,275 children for lead poisoning; 4 children under 6 years of age had elevated blood lead levels.

As a previously funded program, WY CLPPP developed and maintained an ongoing surveillance system, assured case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels, and integrated lead poisoning prevention practices into all activities.

#### Resources

NCEH develops materials that public health professionals, medical-care providers, emergency responders, decision makers, and the public can use to identify and track environmental hazards that threaten human health and to prevent or mitigate exposure to those hazards. NCEH's resources cover a range of environmental public health issues. These issues include air pollution and respiratory health (e.g., asthma, carbon monoxide poisoning, and mold exposures), biomonitoring to determine whether selected chemicals in the environment get into people and to what degree, childhood lead poisoning, emergency preparedness for and response to chemicals and radiation, environmental health services, environmental public health tracking, international emergency and refugee health, laboratory sciences as applied to environmental health, radiation studies, safe disposal of chemical weapons, specific health studies, vessel sanitation, and veterans' health.

For more information about NCEH programs, activities, and publications as well as other resources, contact the NCEH Health Line toll-free at 1-888-232-6789, e-mail NCEHinfo@cdc.gov, or visit the NCEH Web site at www.cdc.gov/nceh.